

**Whitehouse Tree Commission**  
**Minutes of September 24, 2020 Meeting**

Present: Sheri Luedtke, Chairperson; Christine Manzey, Amy Schultz, Michelle Tippie, Dianne Toffler, Elliot Tramer; Council representative Richard Bingham; Public Works representative Mark Thomas

The meeting was called to order by Sheri Luedtke at 7:03 p.m. The minutes of the August 27, 2020 meeting were approved (moved Amy Schultz, 2d Elliot Tramer).

Old business:

- A. Progress on the 2020 Tree City USA application and growth award: Richard Bingham reported that the Tree Commission (TC) budget for 2021 will be increased. A portion of that increase is the \$250 approved for a new “what is this tree worth?” signage project. Sheri Luedtke has an Arbor Day proclamation from the mayor that can be read when we gather to place bricks at our most recently-planted trees. Otherwise we have satisfied the requirements for renewal of our Tree City USA status. Regarding the 2020 growth award, Noah Werning’s scout project, our new facebook page, and the tree risk assessment project for the Cemetery Board should generate sufficient points. Re: the Cemetery Board report, Elliot Tramer reported that he is preparing summary reports, tree risk inventory data sheets, and aerial views of all four cemeteries and will send them to each TC member electronically for their input. They will be voted on at the October TC meeting, and Sheri Luedtke will then present them at the November meeting of the Cemetery Board.
- B. The dedication of Noah Werning’s tree educational signage project went well and was very much appreciated by the Werning family. It can be watched on our facebook page.
- C. Mark Thomas reported that one damaged tree was removed at 7259 Laurel Ridge. The village has a list of 39 new trees to be planted, either this fall or in 2021. Mike Hill of Public Works is ordering the trees, following the on-line master plan. However, new residential developments are not included. Amy Schultz can work with April Cline to see that the master plan is updated.
- D. Sheri Luedtke updated TC on the white birches on cul-de-sacs in Birch Pointe Farms. She submitted soil samples to the “ask the expert” program at Michigan State University, which recommended soil amendments. New Century, the company doing landscape work for the Birch Pointe HOA, fertilized the trees. Discussion ensued as to whether Birch Pointe should be allowed to plant birches instead of trees assigned by the master plan. It was suggested that the river birches already planted at the entrance may be sufficient.
- E. Forms and Docs: A thumb drive containing data from Noah Werning’s project will be deposited in the TC cabinet.

New business:

- A. TC members are encouraged to “like” items posted on our new facebook page. The Werning project dedication and a video on proper tree mulching are already there, and Sheri Luedtke will add information on the Asian Longhorned Beetle.
- B. Amy Schultz is going to new subdivisions to designate appropriate street trees to be planted. She suggested that we need to update the tree inventory, which was completed about eight years ago with the aid of PENTA GIS students trained by Dan Weyandt. Although the TC cabinet has a paper version of the inventory, we are not sure if there is an electronic version, which would be required for easy and continuous updating. Steve Pilcher and Janet Traub will be contacted to see if an electronic copy exists.
- C. Christine Manzey reported on progress designing “what is this tree worth?” cards to be attached to some of our public trees. The goal is to make citizens aware of the dollar value of trees, which appreciates as the trees grow older. These values can be estimated using data provided by the “i-Tree” app created by the U.S. Forest Service. A coroplast card was passed around to show TC members a possible design, and the kinds of information that might be included.
- D. Sheri Luedtke commented on the valuable and interesting series of zoom presentations each Wednesday morning this month, presented by the Ohio Division of Forestry.

Adjournment at 7:51 p.m. (moved Amy Schultz, 2d Michelle Tippie)

Respectfully submitted,

Elliot Tramer